



Bert Hartsfield, CFA
Property Appraiser Leon County

About your TRIM Notice

TRIM means “Truth In Millage,” a legally required notice of property values and property taxes.

After TRIM notices are mailed, we receive MANY phone calls in addition to numerous visits. To save you, the taxpayer, time and money, we have prepared this insert.

If you have questions about your TRIM notice, please follow the directions inside.

SAMPLE TRIM NOTICE EXPLAINED

THIS IS A SAMPLE!

Leon County Taxing Authorities

The taxing authorities which levy property taxes against your property will soon hold PUBLIC HEARINGS to receive opinions from the general public and to answer questions on the proposed AMEND OR ALTER its proposals at the hearing. If you feel that the market value of your property classification that is not reflected below, contact your County Property Appraiser at (850)488-6102. If you feel that an exemption or an exemption, you may file a petition for adjustment with the Value Adjustment Board. BEFORE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES AND PROPOSED OR ADOPTED NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

DO NOT PAY - THIS IS A SAMPLE

Taxes which would bring in the same dollar amount as last year, not including new construction or the impact of the Community Redevelopment Districts.

2011
07/19/2011

These PUBLIC HEARINGS are being held to receive your input on the proposed changes. If you have any questions about these proposed changes, please call your taxing authority. If you have any questions about these proposed changes, please call your taxing authority.

Taxing Authority	Last Year's Actual Tax Rate	Your Property Taxes Last Year	A Public Hearing on the Proposed Assessment and Budget will be Held:	This Year's PROPOSED Tax Rate	Your Taxes This Year if PROPOSED Budget Change is Made	Last Year's Adjusted Tax Rate	Your Taxes This Year if NO Budget Change is Made
County	7.850	\$397.13		7.850	\$418.33	8.0458	\$428.77
MSTU - EMS	.500	\$25.00		.500	\$26.65	.5102	\$27.19
MSTU - Health	.000	\$0.00		.000	\$0.00	.0000	\$0.00
Public Schools By State Law	5.249	\$39.13		3.700	\$197.13	3.6155	\$418.07
By Local Board	2.498	\$18.75		.000	\$0.00	.0000	\$198.94
City	3.700	\$187.13		.000	\$0.00	.0492	\$203.33
D. I. A.	.000	\$0.00		.045	\$2.40		\$0.00
Water Management District	.045	\$2.28		20.129	\$1,273.55	20.3017	\$2.62
Total Property Taxes	19.842	\$1,197.19					\$1,278.92

Market Value

	This Year	Last Year
County	\$124,310	\$100,575
MSTU - EMS	\$124,310	\$100,575
School	\$124,310	\$100,575
City / D.I.A.	\$124,310	\$100,575
Water Mgmt	\$124,310	\$100,575

Assessed Value

	This Year	Last Year
County	\$103,291	\$100,575
MSTU - EMS	\$103,291	\$100,575
School	\$103,291	\$100,575
City / D.I.A.	\$103,291	\$100,575
Water Mgmt	\$103,291	\$100,575

Exemption Value

	This Year	Last Year
County	\$50,000	\$50,000
MSTU - EMS	\$50,000	\$50,000
School	\$50,000	\$50,000
City / D.I.A.	\$50,000	\$50,000
Water Mgmt	\$50,000	\$50,000

Taxable Value

	This Year	Last Year
County	\$53,291	\$50,575
MSTU - EMS	\$53,291	\$50,575
School	\$53,291	\$50,575
City / D.I.A.	\$53,291	\$50,575
Water Mgmt	\$53,291	\$50,575

Exemptions

	This Year	Last Year
Homestead		
Adl Homestead		

Levy Purpose

Levy Purpose	Units

Property Description

Parcel Number: 11-33-50- R-0000000000

Location:

Assessment By

Save Our Homes

For homestead property, this is the value as limited by the Save Our Homes Amendment, as well as by Portability.

If you have a question about this year's proposed taxes, call your taxing authority.

City of Tallahassee 891-8053
Leon County Administrator 606-5100
Leon County Schools 487-7100
Northwest Florida Water Management District 539-5999

Taxes for this property last year.

Tax rate to bring in the same dollar amount as last year.

If this amount is greater than you believe you can sell your home for, contact the Leon County Property Appraiser's Office at 488-6102.

This column lists the amounts of exemption for this parcel. If you have any questions about these exemptions, please call the Property Appraiser's office at 488-6102.

TRIM Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the Property Appraiser change the values each year?

• Under Florida law, all property is to be appraised at market value annually. For example, the 2011 values are determined using market conditions as of January 1, 2011. The Property Appraiser's valuations are audited each year by the Florida Department of Revenue.

If my market value went down, why did my assessed value go up?

• Under the Save our Homes provision, the Department of Revenue in compliance with the Governor and Cabinet, require Property Appraisers to raise the assessed value 3% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as long as the assessed value does not exceed the market value. This year the CPI is 1.5%.

What is "Save Our Homes"?

• In 1992, voters approved an amendment to the Florida Constitution that limited the amount of assessed value a property could increase on the tax rolls each year. The law limits assessed value increases on homestead property to 3% or a figure equal to the CPI, whichever is less.

What is Portability?

• Portability is the amount of savings you may be eligible to transfer from your previous homestead if you move.

If my Homestead assessed value is limited to 1.5% this year, does this mean my taxes cannot go up more than 1.5%?

• No. The taxing authorities determine your tax bill. They are the Tallahassee City Commission, the Leon County Commission, Leon County School Board, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District. These authorities can set the tax rate, called a millage rate, that cause taxes to be higher or lower than the CPI.

What if I disagree with the value of my property?

• If you disagree with the value placed on your property, then contact the Leon County Property Appraiser's Office at 850-488-6102.

What about taxes?

• If you have a question about your proposed taxes, contact your taxing authorities. Each taxing authority will hold public hearings. The date and time of the hearing will be on your TRIM notice.

How is the value of my property estimated?

• The Property Appraiser utilizes cost, income, and market information to determine the value of property. Residential property is primarily appraised based on the market value approach.

How long will a property review take?

• We answer general questions on the phone immediately and refer specific valuation questions to our appraisers. Our goal is to have a call returned to you within the business day and to have the review completed in 3 business days.

Before contacting our office...

- Review your TRIM notice carefully; it will show your current and previous year values and exemption amounts.
- Ask yourself whether your property can be sold for the indicated market value. This is crucial because Florida law requires that properties be appraised at fair market value.



If you have homestead exemption, any increase to your assessed value may be limited to the Consumer Price Index or 3%, whichever is less, as provided by Florida Statute.

If you believe that you could not sell your property for the market value indicated on the enclosed notice, you may request a review.

When requesting a review, please include the following information:

- Parcel Identification Number
- Owner
- Property Address
- Your daytime phone number(s), work or home
- Specific reason for the review

To contact us:

Visit our office downtown on the 3rd Floor of the Bank of America Building, 315 South Calhoun Street, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mail your request to our office at the following address:

**Leon County Property Appraiser
Attn: TRIM Review
P.O. Box 1750
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1750**

Fax your request to the following number:

(850) 922-7238

Email admin@leonpa.org

Call our Customer Service staff with your general questions. Questions that deal with specific valuation issues will be referred to our appraisers.

(850) 488-6102

Our phone lines will be extremely busy after the TRIM Notices are mailed. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

Visit our Website

You may check prior year, certified real estate values, current sales, and view aerial photos on our website. Property information may be searched by owner name, address, or parcel number.

Please be aware that the values represented on our website are previous year, certified values. They do not represent the current working values. The values shown on your TRIM notice will be uploaded to the website once they are certified, usually mid-October.

For detailed information concerning our valuation process, please view our short video presentations on our website named SOH, Tax Shock, and Property Appraisal Explained.

www.LeonPA.org

Types of Value

Market Value – the most probable sale price your property should bring in a competitive, open market.

Assessed Value – the assessed value of your property as calculated under the Save Our Homes (SOH) cap, 10% non-homestead cap (10-cap) or Agricultural Classification.

Taxable Value – the value the millage (tax) rate is extended against to calculate taxes.

The Appeal Process

If you disagree with your value, classification, or exemption, you may meet with a representative from our office. You may also file a petition with the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). The VAB conducts informal hearings where you may present your case.

A petition to challenge a property value must be filed within 25 days after the mailing date of the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes (TRIM).

There is a non-refundable \$15 fee payable to the Clerk of Circuit Court-VAB to file your petition. Please visit the Clerk's website at www.clerk.leon.fl.us for information on the process and where to file, to download a petition form, or to file your petition online by credit card. Petition forms can also be obtained from your Property Appraiser's office; however, it must be filed with the Clerk of Circuit Court.

Exemptions

- Homestead
- Widow(er)
- Low-Income Senior
- Personal Disability/Blind
- Veterans/Deployed Military
- Total and Permanent Disability

Each time you change your primary residence, you need to complete a new application for Homestead Exemption.

For exemption information,
please contact our Exemption Department at

(850) 488-6102